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# QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

March 2015

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## Presidents Corner

I blinked, the vernal equinox passed. I have reset the timer that controls the exterior lights in the building I live in. The vernal equinox was on 20 March, 4 April will be the next full moon. So that makes 5 April, the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox or Easter Sunday, and that of course makes Friday 3 April Good Friday and the day of our April meeting. At 15:30 today it is 78° in my loft on Mr. Fahrenheit's thermometer. All these signs, omens, and portents say that spring has come.

Spring's arrival also means that the Public Service season will soon be upon us. The first event is the Ridge to Bridge on Saturday 25 April. One of the suggestions that came out of the Public Service Lunch was to improve the specific information about each site where we work. Randy Jenkins KA6BQF has put together excellent new pages including maps, images, description of the location and suggestions for radio communication. Please check out the new pages and if you have suggestions please pass them along to Randy or Michael. We are still looking for additional volunteers particularly people who have not worked an event before or who would like training for being a net control operator.

We are considering setting up a digital repeater. We would use one of our existing frequencies. Before we do this we want to hear from you. In the near future we will conduct a survey to get your input. You can also send me your thoughts at [WA6UDS@w6sg.net](mailto:WA6UDS@w6sg.net)

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What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

FCC News

USS Pampanito Report

Board Minutes

Meeting Minutes

## From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

### Mobile Again

Many years ago I had a mobile rig in my SUV, then I sold the SUV and the mobile rig went into the closet. My first mobile operation started in the 1970's with a GE rig that I bought from Jack Troup, WA6JYU. That didn't last long as family and work became my focus.

Once again I have a mobile rig (Kenwood TM-V71A 2M/440M) installed in my car and ready for the public service. (I actually used this rig last year for public service with it on the front seat of the car and connected to a mag mount antenna on the roof.) My mobile rig is much smaller than that GE box that was in the trunk of the family sedan. As you can see it fits nicely under the passenger seat of my Ford sedan (shown here with seat removed). The remote head fits into the pen tray of the center console and the mic is wired through the console box. Doug, KF6AKU, suggested a 5/8 wave antenna, which is what I installed on the trunk lid of the car. I have already had several repeater contacts with club members while driving around Marin and I look forward to working more club members with my new mobile.





Setting up the repeater is the easiest part but it poses some interesting questions. There are three major technologies D-Star from Icom, DMR/ Moto TRBO from Motorola, and System Fusion from Yaesu. Each of these offers advantages and disadvantages. They are naturally, all incompatible with each other although there is some talk that an outsider manufacturer is looking at building a radio compatible with at least two of the modes. The Yaesu and Motorola systems seem to allow hybrid operation where the repeater will work with both analog and digital radios. Watch this space for more on this topic.

Of course there has to be a harangue. As of today we have 68 up to date 2015 members. The good news is that 9 are new members which is quite impressive. On the other hand it also means that 68 percent of our 2014 members are up to date. So get out there and renew.

73 de WA6UDS

## On The Air

### Contest Calendar

EA RTTY Contest: 1600Z, Apr 4 to 1600Z, Apr 5  
 Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19  
 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital 0001Z, Apr 25 to 2359Z, Apr 26  
 SP DX RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 25 to 1200Z, Apr 26  
 432 MHz Spring Sprint 1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 29  
 See complete list at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

### The Slow Speed CW Group

On Wednesday night at 7PM interested members of MARS meet on the repeater for slow speed CW practice. The actual practice takes place on 40M around 7.106 + or -. If you would like to develop your CW skills this is the place to start.



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## What's Happening in Radio?

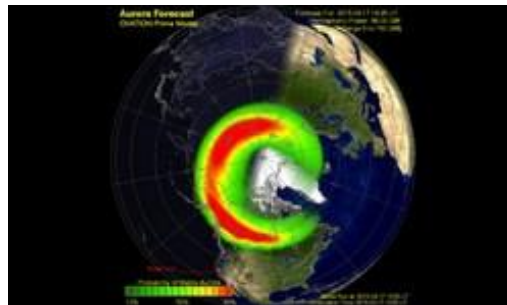
### Colorado Approves Antenna Law

The governor of Colorado signed legislation that mirrors PRB-1 the federal pre-emption policy. There are 32 states that now have passed similar legislation.

The Federal PRB-1 states that the local regulation of Amateur Radio antenna installations must be based on the three factors of health, safety, and aesthetic considerations. Local governments must provide reasonable accommodation and the minimum practical regulation of antennas while accomplishing the legitimate purpose of the government.

### Solar Flare Disrupts Radio Communications

A massive solar flare occurred on March 17th that produced aurora in much of the Northern Hemisphere. The flare caused poor conditions for HF radio communications for several days. The graphic shown here shows this flare over the northern auroral zone.



### ARRL Introduces Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015

The US House bill H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules on reasonable accommodation of Amateur Radio communications to private land use restrictions in CC&Rs

Similar legislation was introduced last year and did not pass. The current bill has 22 cosponsors. ARRL President Kay Craigie noted that such restrictions are routinely applied to every new development, even in rural areas. Currently PRB-1 applies only to state and local zoning laws and ordinances.

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## Lamba-Sat Released

The first Greek CubeSat was released from the International Space Station on March 4 after its launch last summer.

The 1U CubeSat transmits AX.25-protocol UI packets at 1200 bps AFSK on 437.465 MHz. The 1 W transmitter identifies as KK6DFZ.

Greek youth traveled to Silicon Valley to help construct the CubeSat. Hams are encouraged to listen for the Lambda-Sat signal and file reports on the website <http://lambdasat.com/contact-us/>

## 2 Meter Critical Mass Radio Practice

Our next radio practice will be Saturday April 11, 2015, from 1000 hrs. to 1200 hr., again at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park (36th Ave. and Fulton St.).

That's the second Saturday of the month. Most of our practices in 2015 will now be held on the 2nd Saturday.

There will be someone to help you, or you can be that person to help someone. You can be an Elmer, or as I just learned – the ladies call themselves a Wilma when they are helping another ham.

Two new activities for the practice:

- 1.) Beginning at 0930 check in on the Travel Net as you travel to the lake. Use 146.550, PL 100.0, simplex. Check in even if you are not coming to the practice. No need to reveal your location. Just say "Good Morning, Check in only".
- 2.) When the practice is over and as you leave, tune your radio to 146.520, simplex, no PL, and see/hear who you can make contact with as you are headed to your next destination. 146.52 is the 2M National Calling Frequency. Say your call sign once or twice and someone might hear you.

Bring your radio and the operator's manual, charge up the battery, bring paper and pencil, and bring your questions about operating your radio. Someone will be there to help you.

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## FCC News

### FCC Enforcement Bureau to be Downsized

An outside consulting firm hired by the FCC has recommended that the FCC Enforcement Bureau be cut by 66%. This would reduce the number of field office sites from 24 to 8. The only field offices would be in San Francisco, New York City, Columbia Maryland, Atlanta, Miami, Dallas, and Los Angeles. Under this plan field agents would go from 66 to 33. To compensate for the agent reduction a "Tiger Team" would be created that would be deployed to various locations in the US when needed for enforcement. Equipment would be sited in several locations in the US for these teams to use when deploying.

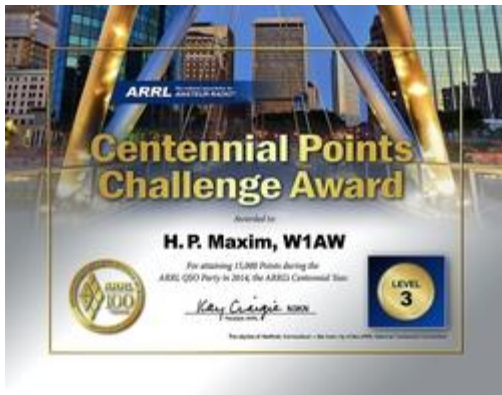
The ARRL has voiced concerns that such cuts in enforcement operations will effectively eliminate the minimal enforcement of spectrum polluters.

### NASA Introduces New Radio

Engineers at NASA have announced that a new type of radio is available to replace hand held radios, call HT's. These radios fit into a tooth of the wearer and have a range of 400 miles eliminating the need for repeaters and external antennas. Apple plans to sell these with their new watches for \$495 starting June 2020.

## ARRL Centennial Points Challenge, W1AW WAS Awards Application Window Open

The window to apply for ARRL Centennial Points Challenge and W1AW Worked All States awards is now open. The ARRL Centennial operating events were hugely successful, with participation that exceeded all expectations.



A sample ARRL Centennial Points Challenge Award certificate.

"This was the biggest on-the-air operation in the history of Amateur Radio," ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said. More than 5.5 million Centennial event contacts were recorded in Logbook of The World during 2014. That number includes contacts with W1AW portable operations as well as those with individual ARRL members and Field Organization volunteers. W100AW completed about 70,000 contacts.

For most applicants, the process will be simple and largely automated, explained Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager, Field Services and Radiosport Department.

"The form will auto-populate, if we have your information on file, and the form can be edited to update name and address information only," Fusaro said. "The system will select the awards for which you qualify. Certificates will be printed daily, so fulfillment will be ongoing, while plaques will be shipped directly from the

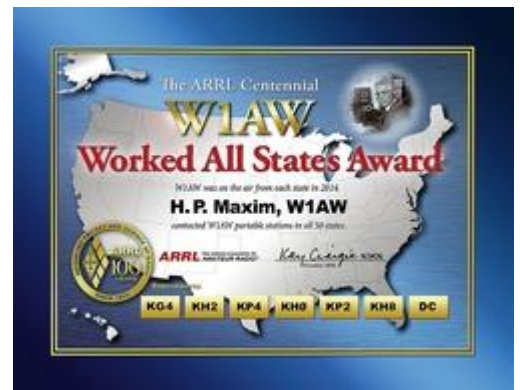
supplier." Fusaro said ARRL Headquarters has hired extra staff to handle the added workload.

Certificates will be available for the Centennial Points Challenge Award, while W1AW WAS Award participants will have the option of a certificate or a plaque. Certificates are \$16, and plaques are \$60.

Fusaro said the task of checking and double-checking electronic logs, entering paper logs into LoTW, and resolving various anomalies put an unexpected burden on staff resources and delayed the opening of the awards window. ARRL Headquarters also had to recalculate all submitted scores to come up with final tallies.

"It's been a very time- and staff-intensive process, researching busted call signs and running down claimed contacts and mode discrepancies for operators," Fusaro said.

Centennial Points Challenge logs must have been submitted through LoTW by January 22, but participants may apply for Centennial operating awards indefinitely. The system automatically looks for points-qualifying QSOs from submitted logs and applies them to each participant's Centennial Points Challenge total. While most Centennial QSO Party participants entered their contact information into LoTW, operators do not have to use LoTW to apply for Points Challenge certificates or W1AW WAS awards.



A sample W1AW WAS certificate.

Qualifying for the Top Level Award requires 15,000 points. The Third Level Award requires 7500 points, while the Second and First Level awards require 3000 and 1000 points, respectively. Point totals will be printed on certificates.

US stations that worked W1AW/p and W100AW during the Centennial may request QSL cards via the Incoming QSL Service on the Centennial QSO Party web page. This is a one-time only use of the QSL Bureau for this purpose, and those who want to receive cards via the Bureau should ensure that their accounts are sufficiently funded, because cards will not be held. Cards destined for stations outside the US will be sent via the QSL Bureau. Participants also may request cards directly, providing one SASE for up to six cards per envelope.

W1AW/p and W100AW will not confirm every contact on the traditional paper QSL cards, but will confirm QSOs for each mode and on most bands on a single card for each weekly operation.

*Reprinted with permission from ARRL Newsletter 3/26/2015*

## USS Pampanito Report

The March 14th DDO kicked off at 1030 hours aboard the USS Pampanito. Our station, NJ6VT, was on the air only to find very poor mid-morning band conditions due to the arrival of a solar flare launched from the sun a few days before. High noise levels (S-7) on 40 meters made listening difficult at times along with deep QSB. Nonetheless, several SSB stations were worked including the USS Midway, NI6IW, on 7250 Kh. The noise level seemed to drop about 1/2 an S unit per hour and by the afternoon band conditions were improved. The DX of the day was LU5MR in Mendoza, Argentina on the 17 meter CW band. In spite of the solar flare, there was some DX to be had.

A radio club from across the bay was supposed to take a tour on the boat, but never showed up. Just as well I suppose because I was operating alone this time around. Visitor traffic aboard the boat was light because of all the activities associated with the Irish parade down Market Street. All and all it was a good day aboard the boat.

Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, April 11, 2015. Please let me know if you can help out. The radio club needs your support!

Den Regan, K6ZJU  
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT  
USS Pampanito, SS-383  
Pier 45, Shed "A"  
San Francisco



## Club Jackets Available

Like the new MARS logo? Need a toasty, spiffy jacket? Look at the photo of Steve, Jerry and Michael wearing theirs, and get one for yourself! You order them directly from Debbie Diaz of Catto's Graphics in Santa Cruz. Her telephone number is 888-722-7135 (0700-1530L) Base price is \$52 w/logo.

Add your name and call sign, tax and shipping, it's around \$80. Up to 6XL available. (Base price for XXL and up is \$58) Her email is [debbie@cattosgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@cattosgraphics.com)



## Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, March 05, 2015

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, Marc Bruvry, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Ed Essick, Rita Brenden and Randy Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Ardourel at 19:30 hours.

The agenda was approved as amended (additions).

The minutes of the January 08, 2015 meeting were approved as published.

Randy reported no significant mail, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for February. The report showed \$2,972.95 income and \$1,801.61 expenses; and total cash assets of \$58,700.25. Dave reported a duplicate entry in expenses of \$229.00

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 61 renewals for 2015.

Public Service – The schedule for 2015 is filling in. Randy has created location pages for all MARS events. The date requested for the Dirt Fondo has Changed to August 30. There is an IAP meeting for the Dipsea on April 30.

Technical- There is a problem with the GPS on Big Rock. Doug just got the parts.

Comm Truck- Still rusting.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next date is Sunday May 24. We need more people to sign up as VE's. The Tech class in the East Bay was canceled due to no attendance.

Speakers – Doug is looking for speakers. He has a couple of leads.

Building Committee – Doug is scheduling a roofing contractor for an estimate. Phil found a running toilet that could explain the high water bill.

Old Business

Parking Signs – No report.

Inventory of Equipment – Doug is almost finished.

DBA Corporate name: John Boyd has filed the forms, and arranged for the published notice. We have registered “Marin Amateur Radio Society”.

Digital Repeater: John reported that Yaesu has extended the offer through the end of the year.

New Business:

Field Day Committee – Marc and Ed will head this year's Field Day Committee.

Logo Banners – John will get prices.

John Butler – There will be a presentation on KF6GNI at Friday's General Membership Meeting. The Board voted to create an award for outstanding “Elmering” in John Butler's name. ORI/VNT/Pass.

It was noted that Bob Fajardo, WA6VOI and Jan Harvey, K9OOU had also recently passed away.

John Boyd reported that the club listing on the ARRL site was dated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporate Office

## Membership Meeting

Friday, March 06, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 hrs by President Curtis Ardourel.

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Twenty-four members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented. Announce DST starts Sunday.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the February 12 Board of Director's Meeting. The July 3 general membership was cancelled, and the March Board meeting was moved to March 05.

There were three reports under "Fun with Amateur Radio". There is a slow-speed code net Wednesdays at 19:00 on 7.1045 MHz. The following new members were announced: Christy Fischer, KI6TDG; Anthony Leonardi, KD6HNI; and Anna Mackinnon, WA6OEN.

Secretary Jenkins reported on a letter from the Dipsea.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted a written report showing \$58,700.25 assets. Steve Toquinto asked about a MOU with other clubs. There was some discussion.

Membership: 61 for 2015. Curtis reported that renewals were sent out for 2015. Members can renew and pay on the website.

Public Service: The 2015 events are filling in on the chalkboard, and on the website. There is a new event this year, MCBC's Dirt Fondo. Webpages are being updated. We welcome new people.

The Technical Committee: Doug reporting that there was a GPS issue that is causing some flutter on the simulcast system. New parts have arrived (finally).

Comm Truck: Still rusting.

Education: Nothing scheduled. There was a question about running an Extra class. There was some discussion.

VE: Next exam scheduled for Sunday, 5/24.

Old business: None

New Business: None.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:07 hrs.

There was a remembrance of John Butler, KF6GNI. His daughter, her husband, and friend made a presentation about John. It was John's wish that much of his ham supplies be distributed to club members for their use.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

**Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, membership@w6sg.net** **General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. From highway 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light. Stay right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines.

**Business/Board Meeting** meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday morning informal meeting** (aka bible class) meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting around 8am and runs to about 11am. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

**The Sunday Emergency nets.** The K6GWE emergency VHF net check-in is at 10:15 am on 147.700 (-pl 203.5). This is a directed net and the net control station may operate at the club house or at a member location. Members on the net check-in list that do not check in for three consecutive weeks are removed from the list until they reestablish check-in. Any member can sign up to act as the net control station. See the club website for signup instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

**Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:**

**President**

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

**Vice President**

John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419

**Secretary**

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

**Treasure:**

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864

**Board Members**

Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252  
 Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521  
 Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292  
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  
 Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

**Other Positions:**

**Education Chair**

Randy Jenkins

**VE Liaison**

Randy Jenkins

**Building Co-Managers**

Curtis Ardourel  
 Dave Hodgson

**Trustee for W6SG**

Augie Koehler K0CQL

**Trustee for K6GWE**

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

**Sunday Emergency Nets**

Mark Bruvry and other volunteers

**DX Representative of ARRL**

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

**Public Service Event Coordinator**

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

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